The decline in consumption of phosphatic and potassic fertilisers during 1992-93 is mainly due to the increase in their prices consequent on their decontrol with effect from 25-8-92.

(c) The entire requirement of potassic fertilisers in the country is met through imports as the country does not have any known reserves of potash. The production Of phosphates in 1993-94 is likely to be 19 lakh tonnes in nutrient terms as compared to 23.06 lakh tones during 1992-93.

(d) The concession of Rs. 1000/- per tanae on indigenous DAP, proportionate per tonne concession on indigenous complexes and Rs. 340A per tonne on indigenous SSP has decreased their sale prices to farmers and has contributed to improving production of these fertilisers by the fertiliser industry in the country

Sophisticated equipment to detect persons lying in nibble to Maharstra

2078. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that several offers to sead sophisticated equipment that car* detect the persons breathing in rubble to *speed* up the resale operations in the earthquake affected areas of Maharash tra:

(b) if so, the countries which have come forward *to* offer such sophisticated •equipment to detect the penons breathing in rabble in the earthquake-affected areas; and

(c) whether Government have taken decision to accept such offers, if not, the reasons therefor?

ME MINISTER OF STAT]E IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE) <SIRI ARVIND WETAM): (a) to (c) Thenformation is being collected and will laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Locusts attack in Rajasthan

2079. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Witt the Minister Of AGRICULTURE be pleased to stale:

(a) whether Government have drawn up any plan to centrol • attack of locusti swarms in Rajasthan as it is feated that the locusts may reappear in Rajasthan within three *to* four years, indieating the) Central assistance ; given so far ander "Operation Locusts Control to the State Government ;and

(b) whether ,any official level meeting; for the exchange of informaion between India and Pakistan,held so far to control and watch the future locusts movement, indicating also the help given so far by the F.A.O. (Food and Agricultural Organisation) in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SPATE IN THE •MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTINAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Locust control in the Scheduled Desert Area in the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Haryana is the responsibility of the Central Government. For this purpose, a permanent organisation called Locust Warning Organisation (LWO) has - teen functioning since 1939. The Government has senc-Honed an outlay of Rs. 3.00 crores for strengthening the infastructural facilities. For effective control of locust incursions during summer, 1993, an additional am. ount of Rs. 2.80 crores was provided. Besides, international assistance was sought and received through the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

Daring the racent locust control campaign, the following Central assistance was extended to the state Goverment of Raiasthant—Insecticides (479.0 MT of BHC 10 per, cent dust), hand ddust.ers 3059 Nos.), power dusters (15 Nos.) and vehide mennded ULVA MAST!SBra-yers (1 No) Besides, both and and aerial operations were carried ont for

controlling locust in the cultivated areas in the Districts of Ajmer, Alwar, Bhil-wara, Chittorgarh, Jaipur, Jalore, Jodh-pur,. Nagaur, Pali, Rajsamand, Sawai Madhopur, Sikar, Sirohi, Srj Ganganagar and Uaipur.

(b) Six high level Indo-Pakistan Bild-teral Meetings have been held since 1975. The last meeting was held at Islamabad on 8-9 June, 1988. Keeping *in* view the seriousness of locust situation, frequency of border mestings was increased and during the period from June to November, 1993, ten border meetings of the Indo-Pakistan locust officers were held to discuss locust situation and control operations in both the countries,

The following international assistance has been received through FAO so far:—

(i) 15 High Frequency (HF) Radie Sets.

(ii) 20.2 MT of fenitrothion ULV.

(iii) 100 hand held battery operated MICRO-ULVA sprayers.

(iv) 8ULVA-MAST, Vehicle mounted sprayers.

Revision of price of dried coconut

2080. SHE SHIV PRATAP MISH-,RA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE, be pleased to state:

• -(a) .whether it is a fact that Govern-- ment propose to revise the support. price of- dried coconut fixed, in 1988; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and if not,- the reasons therefor?

" THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY' OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) The ' Government has already fixed the mini- mnm support price of milling copra at ' Rs 2150 per" qutl.' and that* of ball at it Rs. 2350-per quintal for 1993 seasons.

Harmful effets of pesticide

2081. SHRI RAJENDRA PRASAE MODY: Will the Minister of AGRICUL TURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are awar. that farmers in Egypt, China, Malaysia South Pacific, Islands, Cosra Rica, Brazi Holland, Sweden and Texas have slashes pestiide use and are harvesting greate yields than before;

(b) whether Government propose advise the Indian farmers to cut pesticide use by 50 percent to save cost and in crease prooduction, as the use of pesti cide is proving harmful; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and th reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON CONVENTIONA1 ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINI STER OF STATE JIN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRESH NA KUMAR): (a) The adoption of In tegrated Pest Management approach ha enabled the farmers to reduce the cons umption of chemical pesticides in man' countries.

(b) and (c) In order to minimise th use of chemical pesticides the Govern ment is promoting Integrated Pest Mina gement technology wherein it is advocat ed that chemiccal pesticides should b used as a last resert on the basis o economic threshold level of pests.

Policy on agricultural mechanisation

2082. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: W the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pie sed to state:

(a) whether Government have consi luted a Committee to draft a policy oi agricultural mechanisation; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that mrely tnree percent of the American popution i.e. about seven million people arc engaged in agriculture as compad to about 500 million in India;